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Brief 895
2 Jan 1974

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2000

Secret

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2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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PAGE OF PAGES

2

CLASSIFICATION
 SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
 0 NO INDEX
 0 RETURN TO PER
 0 IF FILES #

EUROPEAN BRIEF 095.

ITEMS MARKED & HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE.

21. SPAIN: GENERAL FRANCISCO⁰'S CHOICE OF INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS ARIAS NAVARRO AS HIS NEW PREMIER INDICATES THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL PLACE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON LAW AND ORDER FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF ARIAS' PREDECESSOR.

ARIAS, WHO HAS A REPUTATION FOR TOUGHNESS DATING FROM 1957 TO 1965 WHEN HE WAS CHIEF OF SPAIN'S SECURITY SERVICES, IS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS COMPLETE LOYALTY TO FRANCO. HE LACKS TIES TO ANY POLITICAL FACTION, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CARRY ON FRANCO'S POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE POST-FRANCO ERA. ARIAS IS A STAUNCH MONARCHIST AND SUPPORTER OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, FRANCO'S DESIGNATE TO BE KING WHEN FRANCO DIES OR IS INCAPACITATED.

THE GOVERNMENT'S HARD LINE TOWARD DISSENT WAS UNDERScoreD ON DECEMBER 29 WHEN STIFF SENTENCES WERE IMPOSED ON THE "CARABANCHEL TEN," DISSIDENT LABOR LEADERS WHOSE THREE-DAY TRIAL BEGAN ON THE DAY PREMIER CARRERO BLANCO WAS KILLED. THE TEN WERE FOUND GUILTY

DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY
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PAGE 3 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION
 SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:
☐ NO INDEX
☐ RETURN TO PER

☐ IF FILES #

OF "ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION" IN TRYING TO PROMOTE A FREE LABOR UNION AND RECEIVED THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SENTENCES, WHICH RANGED FROM 12 TO 20 YEARS. PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION, THERE WAS SOME CHANCE THE COURT MIGHT HAVE IMPOSED LIGHTER SENTENCES TO COUNTER FOREIGN CHARGES THAT THE TRIAL WAS PROOF OF THE LACK OF POLITICAL AND LABOR FREEDOM IN SPAIN.

THE COUNTRY REMAINS CALM AS THE POLICE CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO APPREHEND THE ASSASSINS, WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF ETA, AN ILLEGAL BASQUE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. THE GOVERNMENT WILL PLAY UP THE SELECTION OF THE NEW PREMIER AS EVIDENCE OF THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF ITS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE WAKE OF CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION.

DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

AGE 0 CM 0 AFP 0 TGG 0 TPE 0 MRO 0
 CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 4 OF PAGES

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

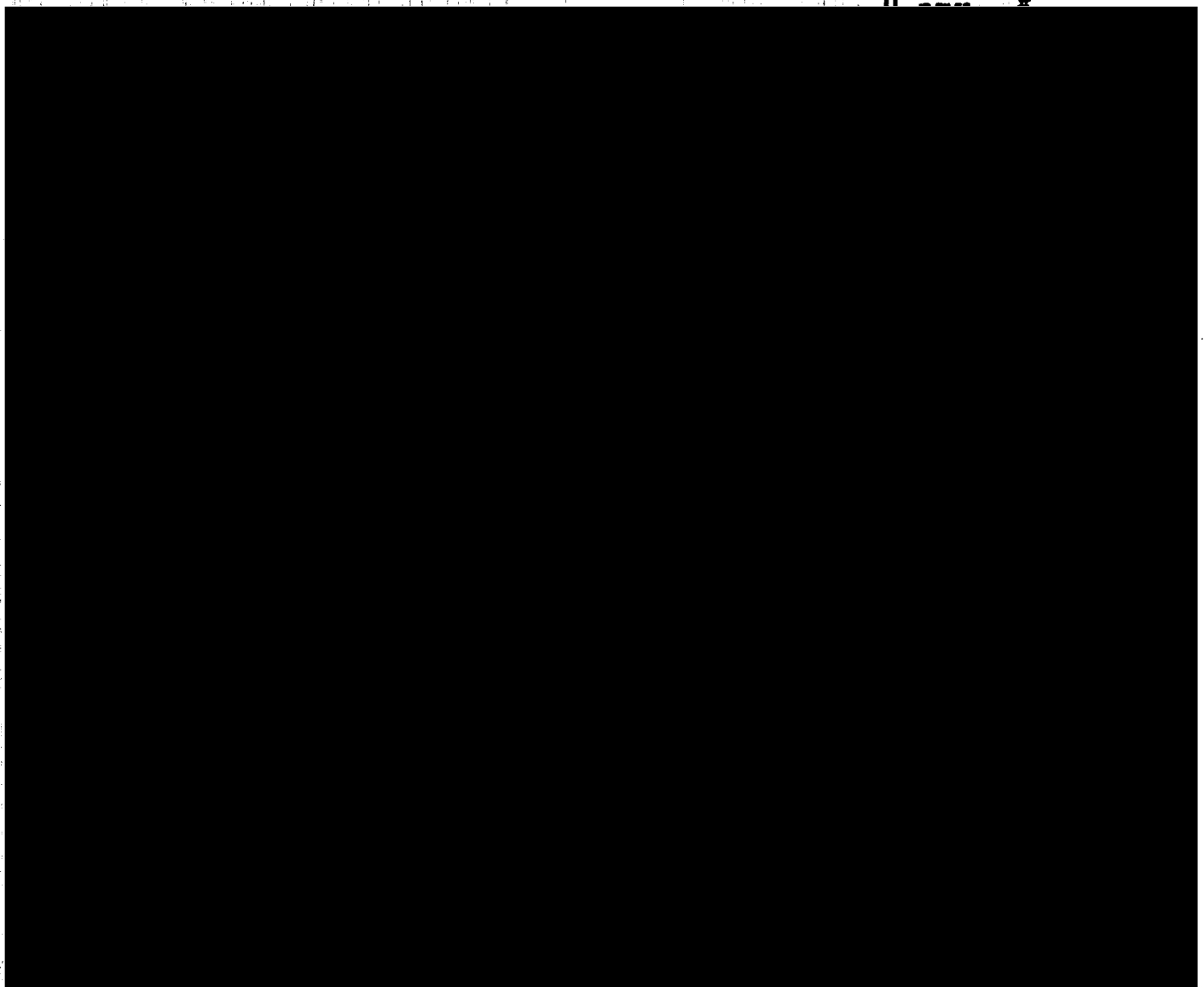
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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
 0 NO INDEX
 0 RETURN TO PER
 0



DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOS TPE MRO

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CONF:

INFO: FILE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

PAGE OF PAGES

5

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:
☐ NO INDEX
☐ RETURN TO PER

DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE CCI ACP TOS TPE MRO

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
0 NO INDEX
0 RETURN TO PER

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

PAGE OF PAGES

6

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

AGE: 0
 SGT: 0
 ACP: 0
 TUG: 0
 TPE: 0
 MRO: 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CONF:

INFO: FILE

1		4		7	
2		6		8	
3		8		9	

PAGE OF PAGES

7

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
 0 NO INDEX
 0 RETURN TO PER
 0 #

DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE CCI ACP TOS TPE MRO

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CLASSIFICATION

PAGE OF PAGES

8 8

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
 0 NO INDEX
 0 RETURN TO PER
 0 OF FILES #

